CHARLTON COMICS GROUP

ATTACK

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CHARLTON PUBLICATION

OUR FIGHTING FORCES IN ACTION

ATTACK

THE CAPTAIN WAS DEAD AND LT. HOLMAN KNEW THE OLD, SHATTERED DESTROYER WAS HIS BABY NOW....

"FIRST COMMAND"

DON PERLIN

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the DELIVERY MAN

PILOTING THE WORKHORSE OF THE U.S. EIGHTH AIR FORCE IN EUROPE, LT. GUS EGGERS HAD HAD A LOT OF WEIRD ASSIGNMENTS...HE FLEW A LOT ON SPECIAL MISSIONS WITH THE O.S.S...A SPY OUTFIT, FORE-RUNNER OF THE C.I.A. FLYING THE UNARMED TWIN-ENGINED DOUGLAS ALONE, OFTEN AT NIGHT...SOMETIMES WITH STRANGE CARGO!

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nomscans

GUS, IS IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO RIDE UP HERE...SO THAT I CAN DIRECT YOUR FLIGHT AFTER WE COME CLOSE TO THE LANDING FIELD?

GLAD TO HAVE YOU UP HERE, MADEMOISELLE! SIT RIGHT BEHIND ME, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE EVERYTHING!

VROOOOM

HERE WE GO!

THE FIELD WHERE YOU WILL LAND IS ON A PRIVATE ESTATE JUST WEST OF PARIS, GUS! MY FRIENDS ARE WAITING THERE!

IF THE BOCHE DISCOVER US, YOU WILL TAKE EVASIVE ACTION! I DO NOT WISH YOU TWO TO BE HURT ON MY ACCOUNT!

WE'LL BE OKAY, JEANNE!

THE RENDEZVOUS...AND THE SIGNAL WAS GIVEN FROM THE GROUND!

THERE, GUS ...DID YOU SEE IT?

GOT IT, JEANNE!

HOW CAN YOU LAND WITHOUT LIGHTS, GUS?

I'VE HAD A LOT OF PRACTICE, JEANNE... AND I *PRAY!*

GUS, THIS IS PAPA PIERRE, THE LEADER OF OUR GROUP!

WELL DONE, MON AMI! NOW, WE HAVE A PASSENGER TO RETURN WITH YOU!

HE IS CAPTAIN CANTRELL...AN AMERICAN P-51 PILOT!

LET'S GET GOING, GUS ...THERE ARE A LOT OF KRAUTS AROUND!

WITH THE WOUNDED FIGHTER PILOT ABOARD, GUS EGGERS REVVED THE ENGINES, THEN STARTED BUMPILY DOWN THE FIELD! AT THE END OF GRASS, THE BOCHE WERE JUST ARRIVING...

WILL THE NAZIS CATCH JEANNE AND HER FRIENDS?

THEY'LL GET AWAY, LIEUTENANT!

EIN AMERIKANER! JAH, EIN DOUGLAS C-47! MACH SCHNELL!

LESS THAN A MOMENT LATER, A GERMAN FIGHTER PLANE WAS ROARING OFF A NEARBY AIRFIELD...

ASSISTED BY RADAR OPERATORS ON THE GROUND, THE NAZI PILOT ZEROED IN ON THE LUMBERING TRANSPORT..

C-47 MESSERSCHMITT BACK THERE, GUS!

TIGHTEN YOUR SEAT BELTS! HERE WE GO!

RATATAT

HEY, YOU CAN'T STUNT A C-47!

YOU CAN'T? JUST WATCH!

YOU'LL TEAR THE WINGS OFF WHEN YOU PULL OUT OF THE DIVE, BUDDY!

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

WHEN YOU PULL OUT, HE'LL HAVE YOU IN HIS SIGHTS!

MAYBE NOT... THERE'S THE SEINE RIVER DOWN THERE...

LT. EGGERS HAD SPOTTED THE LOW BRIDGE SPANNING THE RIVER...

YOU'RE GONNA WIPE US OUT, BUDDY!

MAYBE NOT, CAPTAIN!

WE MADE IT...

...BUT HE DIDN'T!

BOOOM

LT. EGGERS FLEW A COUPLE ROUTINE MISSIONS...FLYING THE BRASS AROUND ENGLAND...THEN, HE WAS NOTIFIED TO GAS UP FOR ANOTHER NIGHT MISSION...TO FRANCE!

YOU'RE CAPTAIN EGGERS AS OF TODAY, GUS...NOW, YOU KNOW THE FIELD WHERE YOU LEFT THE GIRL A WEEK AGO?

I DO, COLONEL, BUT IF I GO BACK THERE, THE NAZIS...

THEY'LL HAVE IT GUARDED, PROBABLY WITH A MACHINE GUN POSITIONED SOMEWHERE! NOW... YOU'VE GOT TO GO BACK FOR THE GIRL BUT YOU'LL LAND ON THE MONTCHAMPS ROAD!

IT PROMISED TO BE HAIRY...BUT CAPT. EGGERS DIDN'T BALK!

JUST ONE THING, GUS...DON'T FLY UNDER ANY BRIDGES!

WE'LL LAND ON A NICE SMOOTH ROAD, ARTIE!

WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE A HEAD-ON COLLISION WITH AN *AMMO TRUCK*!

40 MINUTES LATER...

THERE IT IS, MONSIEUR! SOON WE WILL BE SAFE IN ENGLAND!

THE MAQUIS SOMEHOW HAD BLOCKED THE ROAD IN BOTH DIRECTIONS...A FLOCK OF SHEEP DRIVEN IN THE DARKNESS DID IT AT ONE END...AN OVERTURNED LORRY BLOCKED IT AT THE OTHER!

HELLO, JEANNE... GET ON BOARD!

I AM SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU, MON AMI!

THE ROAD WAS NARROW...ON EACH SIDE THE WINGS CAME DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO THE TREES...BUT GUS EGGERS HELD THE PLANE STRAIGHT AND...

RATATATAT

DON'T SWEAT IT... WE'VE GOT IT MADE!

YROOOOM

WHEN WE GET TO ENGLAND, GUS, PERHAPS WE CAN HAVE DINNER TOGETHER?

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SUGGEST IT, JEANNE!

ONE THING, GUS...YOU MUST STOP DOING THESE RECKLESS THINGS!

END

SANCTUARY!

CPL. RIP CONNERS WAS DRIVING THE JEEP... WITH HIM WERE CAPT. RAY KOBLESKY AND A REPLACEMENT FRESH FROM THE STATES, PFC. D.L. TWINING! RIP WAS FLOORBOARDING THE GAS, TRYING TO MISS THE DEEPEST RUTS IN THE NORTH KOREAN VILLAGE WHEN...

WATCH IT, RIP, CHICOMS ARE...

BLAM!

J.K.

TAKE COVER, CAPTAIN!

WE'LL USE THE KOREAN TEMPLE! COME ON, RIP!

D-3682

COVER FOR HIM, TWINING!

NICE SHOT, TWINING!

HIT THE GRIT, CONNERS!

BLAM

GET INSIDE, RIP... CHECK IT OUT!

THE TEMPLES IN KOREA HAD BEEN SPARED BY U.S. BOMBERS AND FIGHTER PLANES... THE ARTILLERY DIDN'T TARGET THE BUDDHIST TEMPLES... AND THIS WAS AN ISLAND OF PEACE IN A WAR-TORN LAND!

IT'S **SPOOKY**, CAPTAIN!

IT'S NICE AND QUIET, RIP! THERE'S USUALLY A BUDDHIST MONK SOMEWHERE AROUND...

WHY ARE YOU DESECRATING THIS HOLY PLACE, CAPTAIN?

SORRY, BROTHER... WE HAD NO CHOICE.

GET OUT, CAPTAIN! WE DO NOT WANT KILLERS IN THIS HOLY PLACE!

YOU MAY DEPART BY THAT EXIT, CAPTAIN! THERE ARE NO TROOPS OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC THERE!

HOLD IT, RIP!

ARE YOU SURE THERE AREN'T ANY CHICOMS OUT THERE, BROTHER?

VERY SURE, CAPTAIN! NOW, PLEASE GO!

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

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IMPERIALISTIC DOG!

WHAP

HOW'D YOU TUMBLE ONTO IT, SKIPPER? HE LOOKED LIKE A KOREAN MONK TO ME!

THIS GUY'S WEARING CHINESE RUBBER-SOLED SHOES! I POPPED AN ORDER IN CHINESE AT HIM AND HE OBEYED!

CAPT. KOBLESKY PEERED OUT A SHUTTER AND SAW... A CHINESE INFANTRY PLATOON EATING AND RESTING IN THE TEMPLE GROUNDS!

THE CHICOMS OFTEN USE BUDDHIST TEMPLES TO HOLE UP IN!

GET DOWN!

君

HE KNOWS WE'RE HERE, CAPTAIN!

YEAH... AND THE CHICOMS OUT FRONT DO TOO! WE'VE GOTTA MAKE A MOVE!

WHAMO

IT WAS PFC D.L. TWINING WHO FOUND THE TRAP DOOR BEHIND THE BUDDHA!

WE'VE GOT TO CHECK IT OUT! I'LL GO DOWN FIRST ... YOU TWO GUYS FOLLOW ME DOWN!

IT WAS QUIET DOWN BELOW .. AND VERY, VERY DARK!

ANYONE DOWN THERE, SKIPPER?

I DON'T SEE ANYONE, RIP!

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

I JUST PUT FRESH BATTERIES IN THIS FLASH, SKIPPER! HEY, LOOK!

LOOKS MORE LIKE A PRISON THAN A TEMPLE, RIP! LET'S SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

THE INVADERS FROM THE NORTH HAVE MADE A PRISON OF OUR PLACE OF WORSHIP, SIR! YOU ARE AMERICAN?

THAT'S RIGHT, REVEREND! HOW MANY OF YOU ARE DOWN HERE?

THERE WERE TWELVE OF US WHEN THE COMMUNISTS ARRIVED, CAPTAIN, BUT ONLY FIVE OF US ARE LEFT ALIVE!

WE'VE GOT MEDICAL SUPPLIES, REVEREND... TWINING, SEE IF YOU CAN HELP THOSE MEN!

NOW, CAPT. KOBLESKY AND CPL. CONNERS CHECKED THE CELLARS... THEY FOUND NOTHING UNTIL...

COMMIES!

POW POW POW

CRACK

DOWN ANOTHER CORRIDOR, CPL. CONNERS RECONNOITERED...

I HEAR VOICES INSIDE THERE!

I HEAR VOICES... AND RADIO STATIC... IT MUST BE A COMMUNICATIONS ROOM!

CPL. CONNERS EASED THE DOOR OPEN AND LOBBED THE CONCUSSION GRENADE INSIDE...

高

GRRR?!

THUD

BLAAM

RADIO ROOM, PROBABLY DIVISION HEADQUARTERS, CAPTAIN!

HMM... I WISH I COULD SPEAK CHINESE WELL!

I SPEAK CHINESE, CAPTAIN! WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?

INSTRUCT THE CHINESE DIVISION IN THIS AREA TO REGROUP IN KACHIN VALLEY IMMEDIATELY!

NEXT, CAPT. KOBLESKY SET A TRANSMITTER ON AN AMERICAN COMMAND CHANNEL AND SPOKE QUICKLY...

... AND CHINESE TROOPS WILL BE CONCENTRATED IN KACHIN VALLEY AT 1400 HOURS! THIS IS CAPTAIN KOBLESKY HEAVY WEAPONS COMPANY, 6TH BATTALION!

INTELLIGENCE CHECKED... LEARNED KOBLESKY WAS SKIPPER OF THE HEAVY WEAPONS COMPANY... SO THE ARTILLERY WAS GIVEN THE WORD AND...

BLAAAAAMM

AT 1400, IN KACHIN VALLEY, THE CHINESE WERE CAUGHT ON OPEN GROUND AND...

BRRRTTT

MAY HEAVEN SMILE UPON YOU ALL YOUR DAYS, CAPTAIN!

THANKS, REVEREND... AND WE'LL TRY TO KEEP THE COMMIES FROM GIVING YOU TROUBLE IN THE FUTURE!

END

HOLD ON, SWABBIES... WE'RE GONNA *RAM* THE *U BOAT!*

LT. SPUD HOLMAN SERVED IN TINCANS FROM THE BEGINNING OF HIS NAVY CAREER... WHEN HE CAME OUT OF THE NAVAL ACADEMY IN 1940, HE WENT ABOARD THE NEW FLETCHER CLASS DESTROYER THOMASTON...THEN, WHEN THE JAPS HIT PEARL HARBOR SPUD HOLMAN BECAME EXECUTIVE OFFICER ABOARD THE U.S.S. KENTON... A WORLD WAR I FOUR-STACKER THAT THE NAVY YANKED OUT OF MOTH BALLS! THE OLD RUST BUCKET WAS ASSIGNED TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC, TO *FIGHT THE NAZI WOLF PACKS!*

DD173

CRUNCH

FIRST COMMAND!

STORY: JOE GILL ART: DON PERLIN EDITOR: GEORGE WILDMAN

GET A BOAT OVER, CHIEF! THROW LIFE PRESERVERS TO THE KRAUTS IN THE WATER!

DD173

PATCH UP THE BOW, SPUD, WE'VE GOT TO REJOIN THE CONVOY!

AYE, AYE, SKIPPER! WE'LL KEEP HER TOGETHER WITH A LITTLE SPIT AND BAILING WIRE!

OFF THE COAST OF NORWAY, U.S.S. KENTON WAS ON THE STARBOARD STATION IN CONVOY WHEN THE GERMAN BOMBERS CAME OVER...

ALLIED CONVOY HEADING NORTH AT EIGHT KNOTS! PREPARE TO ATTACK!

ALL HANDS TO BATTLE STATION!

OUR GUNNERS BETTER NOT MISS!

FIRST THE BOMBERS PASSED OVERHEAD...THEIR HEAVY BOMBS SINKING TANKERS AND SUPPLY SHIPS... THE KENTON TOOK A HIT FROM A 100 POUND BOMB!

BLAM

MR. HOLMAN! THE SKIPPER'S HIT!

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

DON'T TRY TO TALK, CAPTAIN!

TAKE COMMAND, SPUD...AND GOOD LUCK!

THE CAPTAIN IS DEAD, SIR!

I KNOW, BARNEY!

SO YOUNG LT.(J.G.) HOLMAN COMMANDED U.S.S. KENTOA AS SHE FOUGHT HER WAY TOWARD MURMANSK!

THE SUB SUBMERGED, SKIPPER... I THINK WE SCORED A COUPLE OF HITS ON HER!

WE SPRUNG TWO PLATES IN THE NUMBER TWO BOILER ROOM, SKIPPER! THIS BUCKET IS FALLIN' APART!

SHE'LL HOLD TOGETHER, CHIEF!

I'D GIVE MY RIGHT ARM TO COMMAND A GOOD, SOUND SHIP... IF I EVER DO, I'LL SEE THAT SHE DOESN'T WIND UP LIKE THIS OLD RUST BUCKET!

FINALLY, U.S.S. KENTON LIMPED INTO MURMANSK, THE RUSSIAN'S BUSIEST WARTIME PORT...

MESSAGE FOR COMMODORE McARDLE: REQUEST WORKING PARTY TO REPAIR BATTLE DAMAGE TO HULL AND SUPERSTRUCTURE!

REQUEST DENIED! PREPARE IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE, CONVOY RETURNING TO ENGLAND THIS DATE!

DD173 HEADED OUT INTO THE ARTIC OCEAN-BACK TO THE U BOATS AND THE NAZI BOMBERS-AND THE RAGING SEAS!

NAZI BOMBERS... ALL HANDS TO BATTLE STATIONS!

RAT-TAT-TAT-TA

SOMEBODY'S GOT TO STOP 'EM!

YOUNG SPUD HOLMAN, SKIPPER OF DD173, NEVER SLEPT ON THE TRIP OUT OF MURMANSK! WHEN THERE WAS A FIRE IN THE ENGINE ROOM, THE DESTROYER CAPTAIN HEADED INTO THE BLAZING INFERNO...

GET HIM OUT... I CAN HANDLE THE HOSE MYSELF!

AT LAST, DD173 STEAMED INTO LIVERPOOL... WHERE AMBULANCES WAITED TO REMOVE THE WOUNDED... AND ANOTHER OFFICER RELIEVED LT. (HE WAS PROMOTED FROM JUNIOR GRADE TO FULL LIEUTENANT) HOLMAN!

YOU'RE ORDERED TO REPORT TO THE FIRST NAVAL DISTRICT, SPUD... THE BOSTON NAVY YARD WHERE THEY'RE BUILDING THE 2,200 TON DESTROYERS!

IF I EVER GET COMMAND OF ONE OF THOSE, I'LL COMMAND THE CLEANEST SHIP IN THE U.S. NAVY!

HE WAS OFFERED A THIRTY DAY LEAVE... THIS WAS MAY, 1942, AND LT. HOLMAN REFUSED IT BECAUSE...

CAR 6

SHE'LL BE COMMISSIONED IN A FEW DAYS, SPUD! ARE YOU *CERTAIN* YOU WOULDN'T RATHER SERVE ABOARD A FLEET CARRIER OR A BATTLEWAGON?

I'M A DESTROYER SAILOR, CAPTAIN LAKE!

VERY WELL, SPUD... SHE'S YOURS! CONGRATULATIONS!

COMMISSIONING A SHIP FOR SEA TAKES TIME AND WORK... BUT IN LESS THAN TWO MONTHS THE DD 514, LENAHAN, WAS COMBAT READY!

WE'RE LOGGING THIRTY-EIGHT KNOTS, SKIPPER!

WE'RE READY IN TIME, MIKE! THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS OUR ORDERS TO PROCEED WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED TO THE PACIFIC, VIA PANAMA AND PEARL HARBOR, THEN TO JOIN THE THIRD FLEET!

WEEKS OF STEAMING AND THOUSANDS OF MILES LATER, DD514 REPORTED IN TO THE THIRD FLEET IN SEPTEMBER, 1944, AND...

WE'RE STEAMIN' NORTH TO INTERCEPT A JAP TASK FORCE! THERE'S GONNA BE A BIG BATTLE!

SPUD HOLMAN RUNS THE CLEANEST SHIP IN THE NAVY!

YEAH! IF WE RUN INTO THE JAP TASK FORCE, HE'LL HAVE HALF OF US AT BATTLE STATIONS, AND THE REST POLISHIN' BRASS AND SWABBIN' DECKS!

JAPANESE ADMIRAL SOEMU TOYODA'S IMPERIAL FLEET LURED THE THIRD FLEET NORTH... AND THE GREATEST NAVAL ENGAGEMENT OF WORLD WAR II FOLLOWED!

LITTLE BOY FOUR, ENEMY CRUISER BEARING 160 DEGREES – YOUR SHIP IS IN TROUBLE. DETACH FROM BATTLE LINE AND PUT SOME FISH INTO THE CRUISER BEFORE HE MAKES REPAIRS!

THAT'S US! ALL ENGINES FULL AHEAD!

STAND BY TORPEDO TUBES. ARM TORPEDOES!

AYE, AYE, TORPEDOES ARMED AND STANDING BY!

A JAPANESE BATTLESHIP FIRED A SALVO AT THE RACING DESTROYER... 2000 POUND SHELLS ERUPTED CLOSE TO THE SHIP BUT SHE HURTLED ON...

WE'RE TAKIN' HITS! THE SKIPPER'S GONNA BE SHOOK UP AT WHAT'S HAPPENIN' TO HIS SHIP!

SPUD HOLMAN'S GONNA SHAKE UP SOME JAPS FIRST! WE'RE GOIN' IN CLOSE!

STAND BY TO FIRE TORPEDOES!

FIRE!

FROM THAT RANGE, THE TORPEDOES COULDN'T MISS AND....

DD514

HARD RIGHT RUDDER! EMERGENCY FLANK SPEED!

BIG DADDY FROM LITTLE BOY FOUR, ENEMY CRUISER DESTROYED AND LITTLE BOY FOUR IS AVAILABLE FOR DUTY!

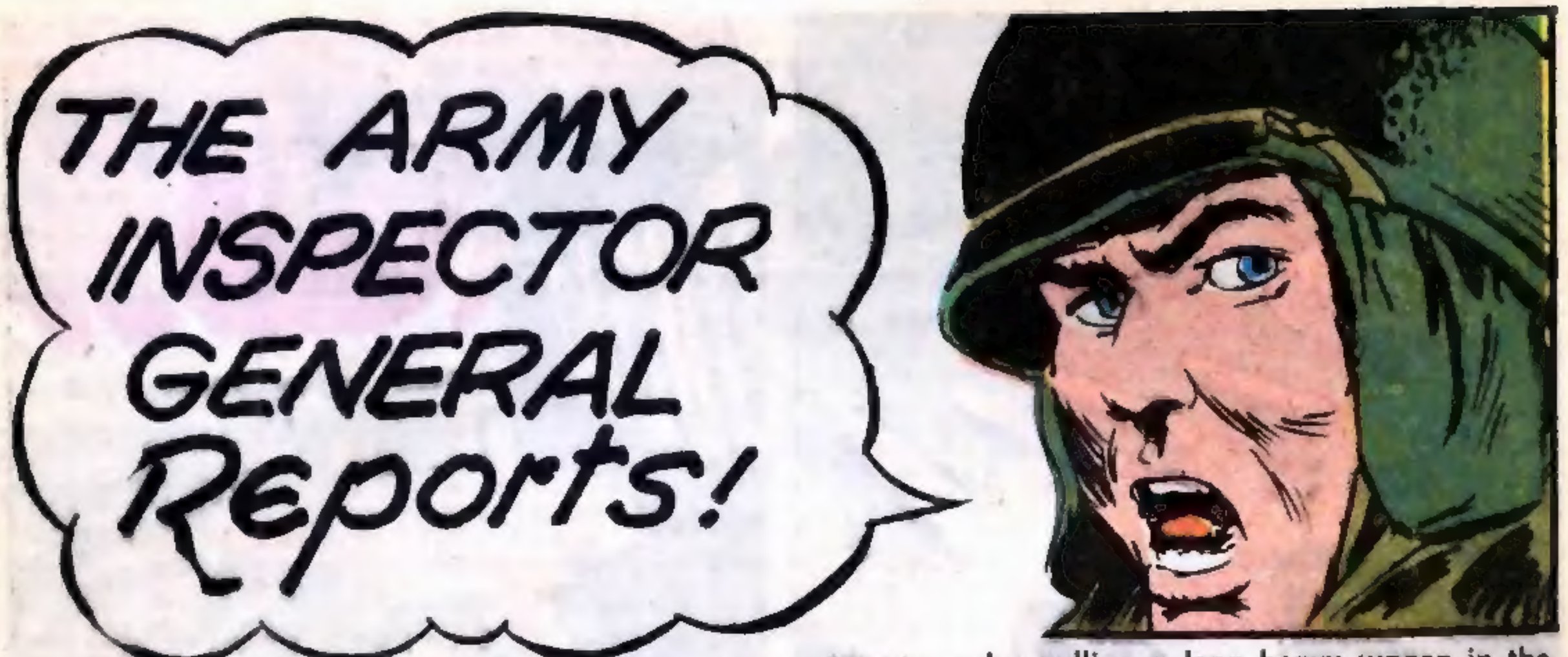
WELL DONE LITTLE BOY FOUR! RESUME STATION!

WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARED, THERE WAS WORK TO BE DONE... REPAIRS TO BE MADE... BRASS TO BE POLISHED, BUT HIS CREW DIDN'T CARE... BECAUSE WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN, CAPT. HOLMAN KNEW WHAT TO DO!

PASS THE WORD FROM THE ADMIRAL, CHIEF! HE SAYS WELL DONE— AND I'LL ADD MY OWN "WELL DONE" TO HIS!

DD514

END



You are going to read a very confidential report. Through some special contacts I have in other parts of the world, I have been able to get a copy of it. I can only tell you that the country concerned is a very small one. But recently it seems to be making threats against another country. And for one week it looked as though there would be bloodshed on the boarders. A dear friend of mine has translated it very accurately. Here it is:

"To our most esteemed dictator:

I am most thankful to you for appointing me Inspector General for our armed forces. You have told me to make a complete inspection of the equipment we have on hand. And how ready we are for a war with a certain country. The one that you felt their ruler insulted you at the State Affair given last month. What bothers me is that you have told me to be truthful. Everyone in our country must by this time know that I have never told a lie. This I learned in the mission school. Always tell the truth. Yet I do know what happened to two of my friends who told you the truth. But what I tell is absolute truth.

I inspected several of our Army Personnel Carriers. Remember we bought them third hand from a dealer in used war materials. In regard to carrier no.6: I rode in it for the distance of one mile. It blew a transmission. We had to get fifteen soldiers to push it back to headquarters. In regard to carrier no.10: I think there were nails on the road. Or maybe broken bottles. We ended up with two flat tires. Now I have very sad news for you. Our Army Personnel Carriers are of the K-YN type. And it seems that the spare parts we bought were for the L-TR type. And they can't be used on our carriers. So you can see that in regard to carrier no.6, nothing could be done to replace the transmission. And we had no spare tires for carrier no.10. Fortunately we were near our railroad tracks. So we took off the rest of the tires and put the vehicle on the railroad tracks. You now have good service between our point and your capital city. Maybe you can get enough revenue to buy the spare parts we need.

In regard to Personnel Carrier no.14: The driver swears he did his best to start it. But the starter won't work. And the battery underneath the hood is dead. The driver suggested that we hire twenty mules to pull it. He remembers reading something in English about twenty mules pulling a long heavy wagon in the American Desert. If it worked there he feels it should work here.

I regret to inform you we had only one more Personnel Carrier, number 26: I myself got into this one to really test it all by myself. I had to make a wide turn. As a result the two ball joints that control the two front wheels snapped. So I left it there. In case you wish to check on it. Now about the rifles our soldiers have to use against an enemy. They are the Model TD Subskinsky rifles 1927 type. They are all still in good condition. But we do not have the ammunition for them. Somebody sold you a lot of 30 caliber rifle bullets. Either we get the ammunition for those rifles or we get the rifles for the ammunition we have on hand. As Commander-In-Chief of all our armed and unarmed forces of our small nation.

We have on hand 6 D-L old army planes. We bought them in crates and I had them assembled. All essential parts are there except for the engines. But they do look very impressive on the ground. We could charge people a fee to look at them. We could even lend them to an amusement park and make money that way. With the money so earned then you can purchase engines for the planes. But we must be certain that they are the correct engines and in working condition. How we will train men to fly those planes I am not prepared to suggest.

One suggestion was given to me by a sailor who is now in our army. So we are not near any ocean or sea, we do not have a navy. He enlisted as a sailor and we had him then sent to our army for training. He has a good idea. And it will cost only very little money. Why not use kites? You can build very strong and powerful kites. Thus we can lift half of our armed forces to any given point. The other half of our armed forces will have to fly the kites.

I will speak to you rather bluntly. There is much more that I can say about our state of unpreparedness for a fight! Come to terms with the other country. You really have no choice. You see I made an intelligent decision. Why stay with a loser? So I took this data to the other country. They promoted me at once to be a General. If I lead my new army against you, what chances do you have?

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